

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEM COMMAND 1333 ISAAC HULL AVENUE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376

NREPLY REFER TO 4770

Ser 333/023

23 Feb 2012

Texas Historical Commission Attn: Mr. Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer P.O. Box 12276 Austin, Texas 78711

SUBJ: PROPOSED DRY BERTHING OF THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The purpose of this letter is to request your concurrence with the preliminary Area of Potential Effects (APE) and the Navy's finding of adverse effect regarding a dry berth proposal for Battleship Texas, which is owned by the State of Texas and under the custody of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

On January 26, 2012, the Navy and TPWD held the first Section 106 consultation meeting for the proposed Battleship Texas dry berth project. Representatives from your office attended this meeting. During the meeting, TPWD presented a preliminary Area of Potential Effects, which is attached for your review. Battleship Texas is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a National Historic Landmark and National Mechanical Engineering Landmark. Also, the San Jacinto Battleground is a National Historic In accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.4, the Area of Landmark. Potential Effects has been drawn to encompass both properties. The Navy determined that the preliminary APE represents all historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking to permanently dry berth Battleship Texas and would like your concurrence with this determination.

In addition to presenting the preliminary APE, TPWD presented alternative designs for the dry berth and alternative berthing sites within the vicinity of the ship's current location. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.5, the Navy has reviewed the proposed alternative designs and locations, taken into consideration the views of consulting parties, and determined that the proposed undertaking may alter characteristics of Battleship Texas or the San Jacinto Battleground that qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP; thereby, satisfying the criteria

for a finding of adverse effect. The Navy is also requesting your concurrence with this finding.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response. If you need any additional information please contact Tuwana Cummings at (202)781-1504 or tuwana.cummings@navy.mil, or James Poles at (202)781-0149 or james.poles.ctr@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

C. R. Pietras

CAPT

USN

Program Manager

Navy Inactive Ships Program, PMS 333

Encl: (1) Preliminary Area of Potential Effects

